

# Special 2015 Legislative Report

# VGEA NEWS

VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

**VGEA today...**

**Legislative Day Next Monday**

**Budget Action Coming!**

**Latest Bill News**

Session Week 4

February 6, 2015



**RSVP Now for VGEA Legislative Day**

## State Budget Action Set for Sunday

### House Appropriations and Senate Finance to Meet

Legislative budget writers will unveil their amendments to the 2014-2016 biennium budget on Sunday afternoon with the Senate Finance Committee leading off at noon and the House Appropriations Committee following at 1 p.m. At that time, each committee will hear the reports of its various subcommittees and then proceed to adopt the amendments recommended by that subcommittee. At each meeting's conclusion, the committees will vote to report their amended budget bills to the full Senate and House, an action that moves each committee's version forward for debate and approval by the full House and Senate on Thursday of next week.

Your VGEA lobbying team has been on the ground every day, working diligently with committee members and their staff on behalf of State employees and retirees. We expect that work to pay off on Sunday with both committees including a base pay increase for State employees, but each is likely to go about it in a different way. The House Appropriations Committee has already announced that it will propose both an across the board cost-of-living adjustment *and* an additional adjustment to address salary compression but details of these proposals await Sunday's meeting.



The Senate Finance Committee has also indicated its intention to include a

Speaker of the House Bill Howell will preside over the House next Thursday

**Presidents' Day**

**Monday,**

**February 16**

**8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Meet at the VGEA Office  
1011 E. Main St., Richmond  
for coffee and bagels then  
walk to General Assembly  
Building. Walk around to  
talk to your legislators,  
then meet back at the**

**office for sandwiches. You are on your own in the afternoon if you'd like to tour Thomas Jefferson's Capitol Building.**

**For more details and to RSVP call the VGEA Office toll-free: 877-302-7146 or email [info@vgea.org](mailto:info@vgea.org)**

**VGEA Offers Four \$2,500 College Scholarships: Apply Today!**

The new 2015 **VGEA Scholarship Application is now online!** If you have been a **VGEA member for at least one year; you, your spouse, children and grandchildren are eligible** to apply.

**[Click here to download the application, which contains the complete 2015 guidelines.](#)** There are also a few new rules, so be sure to read it carefully. All post-high school students are eligible, if their college/ university or graduate school is SCHEV certified.

The **deadline to return your completed application packets is February 27**, and only

base salary increase of some kind and those details too, will be unveiled during Sunday's meeting. The VGEA has also learned that each committee will include additional amendments that address other state employee and retiree concerns raised by the VGEA. More details to come after Sunday's meetings.

Your VGEA lobbying team will be at the General Assembly Building on Sunday and a Special Edition of the *VGEA Legislative Report eNews* will go out early next week with more details about the committee proposals. Also check your inbox for the next issue of *ForeSight* to catch up on all the details about the General Assembly session and goings on inside the VGEA.

If you have not yet registered for next Monday's **VGEA Legislative Day** on the hill, **please do so now. State employees and retirees need to show their support for pay raises and other compensation actions.**

The VGEA will do its best to keep you informed. **Check [vgea.org](http://vgea.org) in between newsletters for breaking news and voice your opinions on the VGEA Facebook page!** *Thank you for your continued support on behalf of State employees and retirees.* Have questions or concerns? **Call the VGEA at 877-302-7146 or email [info@vgea.org](mailto:info@vgea.org) with questions.**

**Bills of Interest to VGEA Members**

VGEA Legislative Director Jim Roberts has compiled this comprehensive legislation list that may be of interest to VGEA members. Bills and amendments marked failed will be deleted from the next issue.

We will revise it each week of the General Assembly session to keep members informed about the progress and outcome of each bill as they move through the system. For more details, visit Virginia's Legislative Information System at <http://lis.virginia.gov> or **click the number link** that should take you directly to the corresponding bill's summary.

**[HB 1942](#)** Health insurance; prior authorization for drug benefits. - **Reported with amendments**

**[SB 1017](#)** Employment applications; inquiries regarding criminal arrests, charges, or convictions. - **Passed Senate**

**[SB 977](#)** Virginia Sickness and Disability Program; open enrollment period. - **Passed Senate with amendments**

**[SB 785](#)** Public employment; prohibits discrimination based on basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. - **Passed Senate narrowly, with Lt. Gov's vote in favor breaking tie**

**[HB 1969](#)** Virginia Retirement System; cash balance retirement plan. **Reported with amendment.**

the first 100 will be considered. **Be sure to submit your application soon!**



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*(Pictured above: the ornate ceiling of the Capitol rotunda, which was designed by Thomas Jefferson, is just one of the things to see if you choose to tour the building as part of your experiences on VGEA Legislative Day, Feb. 16.)*

**SB 1135** Adoption leave; creates new classification for state employee. - **Passed Senate with amendments**

**HB 2277** Life insurance for retired state employees. - **Passed House**

**HJ 492** Constitutional amendment (first resolution); marriage. - **No Action**

**HJ 493** Constitutional amendment (first resolution); marriage. - **No Action**

**HJ 500** Constitutional amendment (first resolution); failure to pass an appropriation act. - **No Action**

**SB 692** Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; conservation officers. - **Passed Senate with amendments**

**SB 696** Conflict of Interests Acts, State & Local Government & General Assembly; certain gifts prohibited. - **No Action**

**SB 735** General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act; prohibited conduct related to travel. - **No Action**

**SB 738** Virginia Sickness and Disability Program; open enrollment period for certain members of VRS. - **Passed Senate with amendments**

**HB 1400** Budget Bill. - **Pending**

**SB 800** Budget Bill. - **Pending**

**SB 752** State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; prohibited conduct for Governor's Secretaries. - **No Action**

**SB 777** General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act; gift-free legislator, penalty. - **No Action**

**HB 1466** Capitol Police; security for Gov-elect, Lt. Gov-elect, Att. General-elect, members of Court of Appeals. - **Passed House**

**SB 812** Lobbyist disclosure; definition of executive action, procurement transactions. - **No Action**

**SB 813** Virginia Retirement System; technical amendments to the programs administered by System. - **Passed Senate Finance with amendments**

**HB 1598** Conflicts of Interests Acts, State and Local Government and General Assembly; prohibited gifts. - **Incorporated HB 2070**

**HB 1659** Virginia Retirement System; increase of retirement allowance - **No Action**

**[HB 2070](#)** State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act. -  
***Re-referred to House Appropriations***

**[SB 1121](#)** IT responsibility of agency directors. - ***Passed Senate***

**[SB 1075](#)** State health plan; participation by local school divisions.  
- ***Incorporated SB 866***

**[SB 1022](#)** Virginia Retirement System benefits. - ***Passed Senate***

**[HB 2081](#)** Employers; disclosure of social media account information. - ***Passed House***

**[HB 1916](#)** Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act; definition of state agency. - ***Passed Senate***

**[HB 1890](#)** Virginia Retirement System; purchase of service credit for prior service. - ***Passed House***

**[HB 1883](#)** Virginia Sickness and Disability Program; open enrollment period; State Police Retirement System. - ***No Action***

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